

Table S3. Cnidae from cnidoglandular tract of three *Pachycerianthus multiplicatus* specimens showing for each cnida subtype numbers (n) and abundance of measured cnidae, mean values of (range length) x mean values of (range width) and mean values of length/width in μm . Congruent cnidae recorded by Carlgren (1940) and den Hartog (1977) are noted.

CNIDA TYPES and subtypes	n	Abundance	Mean (range Length x mean (range Width) in μm	Length/width mean in μm	Carlgren 1940 Recorded cnidae <i>Pachycerianthus multiplicatus</i>	den Hartog 1977 Recorded cnidae, Simple cord <i>Pachycerianthus curacaoensis</i>
b-MASTIGOPHORES		abundant				Spirulae 2, rather common, numerous
Small, broad	8	x	17.0 (13.0-25.5) x 4.3 (3.0-6.0)	4.0		
Small broad-oval	24	x	21.9 (15.0-24.8) x 6.5 (5.5-8.5)	3.4		rather common, 15.3 (13.9-17.2) x 4.8 (4.0-5.3)
Small, narrow	1	se	20.7 x 2.9	7.2		
Medium, broad, short, or long shaft	30	xx	38.4 (26.5-50.0) x 7.0 (4.5-10.0)	5.6	numerous, 4-6 spine-rows, 31-48 x 6	
Medium, broad-oval, long shaft	68	xxxx	28.8 (25.0-39.0) x 7.3 (5.5-9.5)	4.0		numerous, 23.8 (21.8-25.7) x 6.3 (5.9-7.3)
Medium, narrow, elongate	9	se	35.0 (28.0-42.4) x 4.5 (3.5-5.5)	7.9		
Large, elongate, tiny "Faltstück"	5	se	62.6 (50.0-75.0) x 10.3 (9.0-14.0)	5.8	very rare, 58-67 x 7.5-8.5	
ISORHIZAS		seldom				
Medium, broad	1	se	49.7 x 10.7	4.7		
Large, broad	1	se	58.8 x 13.3	4.4		
SPIROCYSTS		abundant			spirocysts very seldom	not measured, uncommon
Small, broad	40	xxx	13.2 (7.5-18.5) x 3.5 (3.0-4.5)	3.8		
Small to medium, densely coiled	5	x	23.6 (4.0-25.5) x 4.1 (4.0-4.5)	5.8		
Medium, elongate	35	xxxx	35.8 (25.5-50.0) x 5.3 (3.5-9.0)	6.8		
Medium, narrow	4	x	35.0 (26.0-36.5) x 3.7 (3.5-4.5)	8.1		
PTYCHOCYSTS		abundant			atrichs, very rare	atrichs, uncommon
Medium, elongate, slightly bent	60	xxxx	44.2 (28.0-49.5) x 7.3 (5.5-9.0)	6.1		24.3 (22.4-26.4) x 4.9 (4.6-5.3)
Large, elongate, slightly bent	56	xxx	52.9 (50.0-59.0) x 7.7 (6.0-9.0)	7.0		

Abbreviations: *n*, number of measured cnidae; *, micro- to mesobasic shaft. Increased cnida abundance shown by; seldom, present, common, abundant, dominant represented by se, x, xx, xxx, xxxx; Approximate capsule size ranges (length x width) in μm are given for: small ($\leq 25.0 \times 3.0$ -5.5); medium (25.0-49.9 $\times$ 3.0-13.0), large (50.0-80.0 $\times$ 6.0-35.0) cnidae. Given size ranges might slightly overlap. Blank cell, no cnida observation. Dominating or characteristic cnida subtypes are marked in bold.